(b) if so, whether a recent Indo-China agreement grants India approved destination status, a pre-requisite for Chinese travel;

(c) whether tour operators have been identified and tourist offices are being opened in Shanghai and other places;

(d) if so, whether remnant hitches were ironed out by tourism officials who visited China after the Prime Minister's visit; and

(e) if so, in what manner the tourist inflow has increased as compared to the last year uptil now?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A list of tour operators has been received from Chinese Government. Contacts with Travel Trade have also been established during the India Tourism seminars held in China earlier this year. The proposal of opening Tourist Office in China is also being considered.

(d) No official from the Department of Tourism has visited China after the Prime Minister's visit.

(e) As the Approved Destination Status (ADS) Agreement is effective from 1st April, 2003, it is too early to gauge results. However, the feedback received indicates increasing interest among Chinese to visit India.

Modernisation of IGNCA

993. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the modernisation and smooth functioning of Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA)?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): IGNCA is an autonomous body, which can take its own decisions regarding modernisation and other activities. The Government has provided a Corpus Fund of Rs. 50.00 crores and the Trust meets the expenditure on its activities from out of the interest accrued on the Corpus Fund. Further, the Government has also provided a plot of land at Central Vista free of cost and an amount of Rs. 100.00 crores for construction of the IGNCA Building Complex.